

Senate Vote Set For Today on AF

Showdown Scheduled On Budget Controversy

Consent for Action
Comes in Midst
Of Heated Debate
On Hiking Funds

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The Senate reached agreement yesterday to take a showdown vote today on boosting Air Force funds over what the Administration wants, as the air power controversy intensified.

President Eisenhower's \$34 billion defense budget—with a billion added for more long-range bombers and air research—was debated on the Senate floor again yesterday, and all but two major amendments were disposed of at the end of the day.

One amendment was the Democratic-sponsored billion-dollar increase, and the other a Republican substitute, limiting the boost to \$500 million.

Democrats expressed confidence they had the votes to pass their plan, and some Republicans privately voiced fears it would carry. However, the decision promised to be close.

Senators clashed over the issue both on the floor and during a morning committee session.

Senate Majority Leader Lyndon B. Johnson, who negotiated the unanimous consent agreement limiting debate for a final vote expected late today, called for passage of the larger sum.

He declared that Gen. Nathan F. Twining's statements to Communist leaders in Moscow point up the need for further bolstering the Air Force.

"There are some persons who think it is 'phony' to strengthen our Air Force but the Communists know there is nothing phony about air power."

Johnson's reference was to Defense Secretary Charles E. Wilson who voiced opposition to Senate moves to vote more money than he wants for the Air Force. Wilson used the word "phony" in describing legislative moves, stirring up a Senate storm.

Later, Wilson said he meant the term to apply to a reporter's question, not the action of the Senate Appropriations Committee boosting the Air Force budget by \$960 million and making \$200 million available for air bases now instead of later in the summer.

Sen. James H. Duff (R-Pa.) clashed with Sen. Stuart Symington (D-Mo.) yesterday over the air power issue, raising a dispute over the picture of American versus Russian strength being portrayed in testimony before a Senate subcommittee.

"I'm getting sick and tired of all this talk about our being outstripped by the Soviets," Duff declared during a hearing of the Senate Armed Services Airpower Subcommittee.

He declared the public is getting a distorted and magnified picture of Russian strength, while the group has received "some perfectly fabulous information of wonderful things" being accomplished in this country.

Symington, chairman of the

subcommittee which has been discussing highly confidential information—and in an election year."

The Senatorial clash interrupted testimony of Army Secretary Wilber M. Brucker, in which he said he would ask for an increase of at least 10 per cent in Army spending in 1958. He indicated he will oppose a move suggested by Wilson last week to further cut Army manpower.

"I totally disagree with you," snapped Duff.

Sen. Henry M. Jackson (D-Wash.) charged Director Allen W. Dulles of the Central Intelligence Agency with playing politics in stating that there is "no evidence" Russia is forging ahead of the United States in the development of long-range ballistic missiles. The statement was made on a television program last week conducted by Rep. Harold Ostertag (R-N.Y.).

Symington said the statement was not correct in light of Dulles' secret testimony before his group. He declared that the CIA chief would not agree to make public any of his testimony on the subject. Jackson hit Dulles with what he said was setting a "precedent by

Under the agreement entered into yesterday, the Senate will begin consideration of pending amendments at 1:30 o'clock this afternoon, with debate limited to 90 minutes on each and 3 hours additional on final passage. Only the two major amendments boosting air funds are pending now, but others can be proposed before final action.

During yesterday's floor debate, Sen. A. Willis Robertson (D-Va.) backed the billion-dollar boost. He declared that deliveries of B-52 bombers "are not even approaching the Administration's schedule."